

In the Uralsk district 202 out of 208 cases succumbed, and in Beiskulak of 26 cases all died. In Peru, on the other hand, the mortality has been low, in Lambayeque 13 out of 39 died, and in Libertad only 3 out of 32 cases were fatal.

A CASE OF DEPRESSED FRACTURE OF THE SKULL WITH SPONTANEOUS ELEVATION OF THE DEPRESSION AND COMPLETE RECOVERY.

By WILLIAM LELAND HOLT, M. D., Banning.

On the evening of June 11, 1910, I was called to attend a boy of six, who had fallen an hour before into a rock-lined water-conduit and "broken his head." I found him unconscious, tossing about, moaning, and in profound shock. Over the right parietal eminence, including I think the coronal suture, was a conspicuous depression about two inches long and half an inch possibly in depth. The pupils were equal; there was no bleeding from the ears, nose, or elsewhere; but fluid accumulated rapidly beneath the scalp, soon obliterating the parietal dent.

The boy reacted well to a hypodermic of strychnia and morphia, and in a few hours had regained consciousness apparently. He was feeble-minded and had never learned to talk; so it was hard to tell the effect upon his mentality.

Believing that an operation was indicated to stop a subdural hemorrhage, if one had occurred, and to relieve the pressure by elevating the depressed bone, I sent the boy next morning to the Riverside County Hospital to Dr. W. W. Roblee. I learned that he arrived in unexpectedly good condition, and was not operated upon; but was greatly surprised only two days later to meet his mother on the train bringing him home, and to find that the large dent in his skull had quite disappeared! He seemed as well as before his head was broken.

BOOK REVIEWS

Textbook of Physiology. Isaac Ott, A. M., M. D. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers, Philadelphia, 1909.

The third edition (1910) is very similar to the second edition (1907) and both are a marked improvement and development of the first edition (1904). In the matter of illustration the first edition contained but 137 in 550 pages of reading matter, while this edition contains 394 in 871 pages of matter. The general order of development of the subdivisions of physiology by different authors is an interesting matter for comparison. Dr. Ott places the primitive functions of digestion and absorption early and immediately after the cell and chemical constituents of the body; blood and circulation comes later; metabolism and animal heat later still and nervous physiology last.

In this edition the chapters on blood, circulation, and metabolism have been re-written, and the sections on respiration and internal secretions considerably revised.

In the words of the author this text seeks to avoid discussions, states what is generally accepted, and does not attempt to supply directions for laboratory technique.

The book has a directness of statement often that is pleasing and its large print is restful to read, but in sections there seems a lack of finish, a lack of clearness in statement or breadth of discussion such as one would expect from so large a text. The text represents an evolution and will doubtless appeal to many students and practitioners.

F. W.

Duodenal Ulcer. By B. G. A. Moynihan, M. S. (Lond.), F. R. C. S. Published by W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London.

Less than a decade ago duodenal ulcer was considered a rarity and no one seemed confident of recognizing it during life.

To-day indisputable evidence shows its great frequency. Trained clinicians no longer consider its accurate diagnosis a difficult task. Indeed, Moynihan declares that in his experience the "diagnosis of duodenal ulcer is made with a degree of accuracy that is not exceeded in the cases of any other abdominal disorder."

The present volume of 362 pages, written in the author's well known lucid style, contains a detailed description of ulceration of the duodenum in burns, uraemia, tuberculosis and melaena neonatorum.

The chapters devoted to symptomatology and differential diagnosis of chronic ulcer have none of the earmarks of hackneyed descriptions, but show clearly the author's vast clinical experience. "The treatment of chronic duodenal ulcer should always be surgical."

Four methods of treatment are mentioned by Moynihan:

1. Excision of the ulcer—Simple excision.
2. Gastro-enterostomy.
3. Resection of the duodenum with or without the pylorus.
4. Resection and end to end anastomosis, the pylorus being left intact.

Excision is limited to small, free ulcer of the anterior surface, in which removal will not produce or be followed by constriction. Cases of this category are generally seen too late for excision. In the vast majority of instances posterior no loop gastro-enterostomy can be performed and will give the most satisfactory results.

The reviewer notes with surprise that to the numerous beautiful illustrations relating to the technique of gastro-enterostomy, the author found it necessary to add seven plates to explain a slight modification of Roux's operation, a procedure which has already been abandoned by both its originator and its chief advocate—Monprofit.

Resection of the duodenum may be resorted to in the rare cases of hourglass duodenum or of duodenal ulcer associated with gastric ulcer.

The chapters on perforation, diagnosis and treatment contain a vast amount of valuable information, and should be read by both physician and surgeon. Likewise the excellent and well illustrated pathological study of ulcer of the duodenum.

Perhaps the most valuable part of Moynihan's timely volume is the last third, which contains a detailed statement of all cases (189) operated by him to the end of 1903, with an analysis and summary.

D. T.

Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By Louis Fischer, M. D. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, Publishers. 1910.

In this, the third, or 1910 edition, of his book, Dr. Fischer has aimed to cover his field in a complete and systematic manner. The book has been divided into twelve parts, as follows:

1. The New-Born Infant.
2. Abnormalities and Diseases of the Newly-born.
3. Feeding in Health and Disease.
4. Disorders Associated with Improper Nutrition and Diseases of the Mouth, Oesophagus, Stomach, Intestines and Rectum.
5. Diseases of the Heart, Liver, Spleen, Pancreas, Peritoneum and Genito-Urinary Tract.
6. Diseases of the Respiratory System.
7. The Infectious Diseases.